

App. No. 10/754,416
Office Action Dated May 3, 2006

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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 12 is amended editorially. Claim 12 includes features tracking those in the independent claim of the granted parent application, as supported for example at pages 7-8 of the specification. The non-elected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 12-16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nakatani (US 5,484,647) in view of Fukutake (US 5,473,118). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 12 requires the use of a laminate having a porous sheet and a laminated resin layer impregnating the porous sheet. The central portion of the porous sheet not impregnated with resin from the resin layer. Claim 12 uses this laminate in a step of heating and pressing the laminate to allow hollow pores of a porous sheet to be filled with resin.

The references do not suggest the invention of claim 12, even when considered in combination. Nakatani teaches use of a resin-impregnated fiber-reinforced prepreg. There is no indication in the reference that the central portion of the prepreg is free from resin, and therefore Nakatani does not suggest a step of heating and compressing a laminate so as to fill hollow pores in the central portion of a porous layer. The rejection relies on Fukutake to teach the claimed resin layer. However, Fukutake merely teaches an adhesive that is applied to the surface of both sides of a porous fluoropolymer film on which a polyimide or polyester film is overlaid so as to be unified. Again, nothing in the reference suggests a heating and pressing step that fills hollow pores of in a central portion of the porous layer with resin from a laminated resin layer.

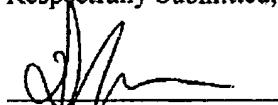
Favorable reconsideration of claims 12-16 is requested.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,


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